

**Governmental Affairs Committee
Regular Meeting
June 1, 2006 – 8:30 a.m.
Tribal Office Board Room**

1. Call to Order & Roll Call-

Committee Chairperson Ann Marie Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Those present: Jeremy Weso, Bob Lansing, Kathy Kaquatosh, Jamie Loudbear-Wayka and Ben Kaquatosh. Gary Besaw was absent. Also present for the meeting was Rita Keshena and Rob Orcutt.

2. Moment of Silence-A moment of silence was observed.

3. Election of Officers-

Chairperson Johnson opened the floor for nominations for Committee Vice-Chair.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to nominate Kathy Kaquatosh as Vice-Chair. Kathy Kaquatosh declined.

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to nominate Ben Kaquatosh as Vice-Chairman. Motion was seconded by Bob Lansing. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Ben Kaquatosh is the Governmental Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman.

Chairperson Johnson opened the floor for nominations for Committee Secretary.

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to nominate Jamie Loudbear-Wayka as Committee Secretary. Motion was seconded by Ben Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Jamie Loudbear-Wayka is the Governmental Affairs Committee Secretary.

4. Gas Tax/Rita Keshena-

At the last Menominee Tribal Legislature meeting there was a motion passed “*to impose a .10 cent gas tax, with the exception of the Fuel Station; and have Governmental Affairs come back with a working document (based on the information) submitted several months ago.*” Rita Keshena was present with a draft ordinance titled “Tribal Fuel Taxation.”

Committee discussed the gas tax issue & draft ordinance and agreed that if the tax is imposed another exception would have to be made for MTE since it is considered a tribal business. After further discussion some committee members showed concerns and opposition to imposing the tax.

The following is a list of concerns brought up by committee members;

- There is no financial information to do a cost analysis on whether a tax would be beneficial or not.
- The tax would NOT be absorbed by the retailer because it would be passed onto the consumer.
- Right now it is bad timing considering how high fuel prices currently are.
- There would be adverse affects on retailers.
- The tax would not stimulate economic development.

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to refer the Draft Tribal Fuel Taxation Ordinance to the Menominee Tribal Legislature for consideration & approval. NO SECOND. Motion DIED.

For the record....The committee does not want to act on the issue.

5. NOFA Report-

Jeremy gave a report on the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for fiscal year 2006. The following is taken from the report that was submitted by Jeremy Weso;

“In fiscal year 2006 the Menominee Tribal Legislature appropriated \$100,000 of the Education Endowment fund and \$50,000 of the Healthcare Endowment fund for distribution to governmental entities, organizations, and individuals in accordance with a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that was developed by the Governmental Affairs Committee and adopted by the Legislature. Among other things, the NOFA established terms and conditions on how the funds were to be utilized, assembled a three member review panel to evaluate applications, and created review criteria based on a 100-point grading system. One hundred and fifteen applications totaling \$274,488 were received by the deadline date established in the NOFA, and of the 115 applications, only 19 applications totaling \$71,644 received a passing score of 70 points or more needed to secure funding. Of the total amount available, \$78,356 of the funds was not distributed.”

There is a total of \$21,847 left in Healthcare and \$56,509 remaining in Education.

Committee made the following recommendations;

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to recommend that the Menominee Tribal Legislature authorize the Health Care Director to plan, direct and control the balance of the Health Care endowment and use those funds in a manor consistent with the purpose of Health Care endowment as described in the Notice of Funding Availability. Motion was seconded by Ben Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to recommend that the Menominee Tribal Legislature authorize the Education Director to plan, direct and control the balance of the Education endowment and use those funds in a manor consistent with the purpose of Education endowment as described in the Notice of Funding availability. Motion was seconded by Bob Lansing. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

6. 79-15 Enrollment Update-

There is no longer a director for that department. No action taken and the issue will be taken off the agenda.

7. MTL Rules & Regulations-

Chairperson Johnson stated that she thought the committee was done revising the document. After researching the issue the Committee made a motion approving the Rules & Regulations in January and it went to the Menominee Tribal Legislature in February but no action was taken.

Chairperson Johnson stated that the issue just needs to be placed back on the Menominee Tribal Legislature agenda.

Committee members would like to change the wording in one section and would like to discuss it at a special meeting.

8. Personnel Policies & Procedures Update-

Committee would like to hold a special meeting to finish up the Policies & Procedures.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to schedule on last meeting on Thursday June 8, 2006 to go over the Personnel Policies & Procedures and the Menominee Tribal Legislature Rules & Regulations and that committee members send there concerns/changes to other committee members and how they want them done. Motion was seconded by Jamie Loudbear-Wayka. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

9. 95-04 Revision Status-

Chairperson Johnson stated that she will get copies to everyone of what was discussed before and that she would like all committee members to come to the next meeting with the changes they would like to see.

10. Business Committee Update-

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to table. Motion was seconded by Bob Lansing. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

11. Other Business-

Kathy informed the committee that she had a request from Chief Justice Kittecon to use the remainder of the Tribal Courts Dedication Fund to cover the costs associated with the Election dispute.

Motion made by Jeremy Weso to authorize the balance of the Tribal Courts Dedication Funds to cover the costs associated with the election dispute. Motion was seconded by Ben Kaquatosh. After further discussion committee decided that it isn't their place to make budget recommendations and that the issue would either have to go to Budget & Finance Committee or straight to the Menominee Tribal Legislature. Jeremy Weso withdrew his motion and Ben Kaquatosh withdrew his second to that motion.

Kathy will take the issue straight to the Menominee Tribal Legislature tonight.

12. Adjournment-

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Bob Lansing. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Ser vices